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BA-421

Belfast Retreat
(Home of M/M Wilbur Pearce)
South side of Belfast Rd.
west of Priceville Rd.
Not accessible
1815-1820

This sturdy stone house was built by William Brooks on land patented by his father, Charles Brooks the Elder as "Belfast". It retain several well-preserved outbuildings.

The Brooks family was a large one and they built several homes in this area and provided a lot for the Belfast public school. One daughter, Mary, married George Chilcoat and, together with their heirs, occupied this house until about 1905.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Belfast Retreat

AND/OR COMMON

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Pearce

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South side of Belfast Road, west of Priceville Road 15314

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sparks

— VICINITY OF

8

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

—DISTRICT

—PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

—AGRICULTURE

—MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

—UNOCCUPIED

—COMMERCIAL

—PARK

—STRUCTURE

—BOTH

—WORK IN PROGRESS

—EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

—ENTERTAINMENT

—RELIGIOUS

—OBJECT

—IN PROCESS

—YES: RESTRICTED

—GOVERNMENT

—SCIENTIFIC

—BEING CONSIDERED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—INDUSTRIAL

—TRANSPORTATION

NO

—MILITARY

—OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Wilbur Pearce

Telephone #: 472-2867

STREET & NUMBER

Belfast Road

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

Sparks

— VICINITY OF

Maryland

21152

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 1586

Folio #: 132

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Towson

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Entered 4/77 RCH:hc + 1/10/88

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-421

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Belfast Retreat is a stone house, two storeys in height, five bays in length, its principal facade to the east; west of the south end, and with south walls flush and continuous is a two storey, three bay stone kitchen wing of equal height, the unbroken stonework indicating all construction to be original despite the stone wall which separates the main house from the kitchen wing. Remaining original details suggest that 1815-1825 is an acceptable date for this dwelling.

Roofs are gabled and extend over the gables with a moderate rake overhang; the cyma-recta crown moulding (which extends up the rake) suggests a late nineteenth century alteration, further suggested by the presence of earlier crown moulding (consisting of larger cyma-recta over cyma-reversa profiles) visible in the attic, reused as shingle-lathe.

Flush chimneys of stone rise above each gable end, flanked by small attic windows.

Windows throughout are 6/6 with narrow beaded frames and louvred blinds. Masonry above openings is supported by roughly-worked stone lintels. The principal entrance, a single door, is centered on the east facade and secondary entrances are in the middle bay of both sides of the rear wing, and in the middle bay of the west facade of the main house, directly opposite the principal entrance. The south entrance to the kitchen wing is sheltered by a one-bay, one-storey shed-roofed porch and a small stone-walled gable-roofed structure covers an entrance to the cellar at the east end of the south facade. The window above the principal entrance, centered on the east facade,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-421

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Unknown BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This stone house, located on the south side of Belfast Road west of Priceville Road, stands on land which was patented in 1799 by Charles Brooks the Elder as "Belfast." The sturdy home of a prosperous farmer, it retains several well-preserved outbuildings.

Charles Brooks' son, William, inherited the property from his father and was undoubtedly the person for whom this dwelling was built.

In 1830, at the time of William Brooks' death, the house was left to his ten children.

The 1850 and 1877 county maps, respectively, show John Chilcoat and then George B. Chilcoat, his son, living here. John Chilcoat had married Mary Brooks in 1848 and they and their children occupied the farm until 1905. At that time, the property was sold to Albert Fahnestock, who lived here until 1921 when J. Howard Parks bought it. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Pearce, bought the place from Parks' widow in 1947.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sidney, J.C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland.
(Baltimore, 1850.)

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. (Philadelphia, 1877.)

Chapman Publishing Company. Genealogy and Biography of the Leading Families of Baltimore. (1897).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 84[±] acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollon, Jr., AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7: Description:

is said to have been a door and an interior recess beneath it suggests the possibility. Now covered externally by the porch roof, this feature may be related to similar conditions at the nearby Fuller House (q.v.).

The typical floorplan includes a central hall with the principal stair rising, open and with intermediate landings, to the third floor; a single room on each side; and two rooms in the rear wing, the rear-most or westerly one having a large fireplace in its southwest corner fitted with a crane for cooking and formerly with an oven built behind the north end of the firebox. An enclosed secondary stair ascends to the second and attic floors north of the kitchen chimney.

The round handrail of the principal stair terminates in a ball, slightly greater in diameter than the rail, on the round tapered newel. The rectangular balusters rise above scrolled step ends. Principal spaces have corner-block architraves at doors and windows, while spaces of lesser importance have beaded architraves with cyma-reversa-with- astrigal backbands. The mantel of the north room (the parlor) has half-oval engaged columns supporting a frieze with carved end blocks flanking a panel with a two-step raise, each step with hollow corners. The mantel of the south room has round columns supporting boldly projecting end blocks with arched panels terminating a paneled frieze. An original built-in cupboard, with a taller pair of doors above, a shorter pair, occupies the recess west of the chimney breast. Original, simpler mantels and other trim remain in second storey rooms. Doors have six partially-raised panels.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

Continuation Sheet #2

Question #7: Description:

In the unfinished attic, extending equally above the entire house, some rafters are straight-sawn and tapered while others are small logs with one hewn face; all are half-lapped and pegged at the ridge. Wood shingles are visible beneath the standing-seam tin roof covering.

Close to the south kitchen door stands a frame smokehouse, one storey in height, sheathed in board-and-batten and covered with a gabled roof; its double doors are in its north gable end.

Some distance to the south is a stone spring house, one storey in height, its northerly roof slope of a slightly-flatter pitch in order to extend over the north wall, supported by cantilevered ceiling joists, to provide slight shelter for the entrance therein; the roof ridge is centered above the four stone walls. Each other wall contains a small wood-barred ventilation opening.

The frame grainery, east of the dwelling house, consists of two enclosed areas for grain storage flanking a driveway, the whole covered with a gabled roof. A short addition or outshoot externally on the south side, on a high stone foundation like the principal storage areas, is covered by an extension of the southerly roof slope.

A large framed bank-barn stands southeast of the grainery, its tall upper loft storey cantilevered over the stone ground storey, between projecting stone east and west walls, to shelter entrances and small windows to the stalls within. The hewn timber frame of the barn remains intact and exterior walls are covered with vertical siding. Tall double doors at grade on the north side provide access to the loft within and several louvred openings on the other sides provide ventilation.